

## **SAFETY ADVISORY: POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL HAZARD**

### **OPERATION OF TEXAS FLATS BOATS/BAY BOATS**

This safety notice is being distributed to increase recreational boater awareness of the Coast Guard's concerns regarding the safe handling of shallow draft Texas Flats Boats or Bay Boats. Improper handling of this unique style of boat can result in serious injuries or fatalities. Please consult the Coast Guard's *Boating Safety Circulars* Issues 88 and 89 which can be found at:

<http://www.uscgboating.org/content/boating-safety-circulars.php>

Testing of these boats under U.S. Coast Guard supervision identified that under certain operating conditions these uniquely designed hulls have a tendency to experience "end swapping" or "hull skipping" which could result in serious injuries or fatalities.

The Coast Guard reports that when making hard turns to port or starboard at 25 mph or greater, these vessels may experience an uncontrollable spin of up to 180 degrees, putting the bow down into the water and causing the aft end to rise out of the water. This uncontrollable action may result in occupants being thrown overboard, and may result in serious injuries from propeller strikes.

These vessels are designed to operate in shallow waters along the coast, which make them very popular with fisherman in Gulf Coast regions. Auxiliaries in these areas should be aware of the Coast Guard's safety concerns with respect to the operation of this type of vessel, and when possible, inform operators of the potential "end swapping" or "hull skipping" that may occur during hard turns at high speed.

Please give this information the widest distribution possible.